

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

DRUG WAR



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures as she speaks during a press conference in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Clinton told that the drug cartels responsible for increasing violence in the border region are fighting not just Mexican military and law enforcement forces but also the United States.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

NET ZERO



New Jersey Nets forward Terrence Williams (8) puts up a shot over Miami Heat center Jermaine O'Neal during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 22, 2010 in East Rutherford, N.J. Williams injured his left foot when he came down and had to leave the game. The Heat won 99-89.

Read more on Page A12



Marcelas Owens of Seattle, left, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., right, and others, look on as President Barack Obama signs the health care bill in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

Associated Press

Obama signs landmark health care reform bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama on Tuesday signed into law a landmark health care reform bill, presiding over the biggest shift in U.S. domestic policy since the 1960s and capping a divisive, yearlong debate that could define the November congressional elections.

The law will bring near-universal coverage to a wealthy country in which tens of millions of people are uninsured. The plan's provisions will be phased in over four years, and it is expected to expand coverage to about 94 percent of eligible non-elderly Americans would have coverage, compared with 83 percent today.

Continued on Page 4

13 attorneys general sue over overhaul

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum announces at a news conference that he has filed a lawsuit against the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U. S. Department of Treasury, and the U. S. Department of Labor, alleging the health care reform bill signed into law by President Obama is unconstitutional, Tuesday, March 23, 2010, in Tallahassee, Fla.

Associated Press
Read Next Page



Israeli leader gets warmer welcome in Congress

MATTHEW LEE
MATTI FRIEDMAN
Associated Press Writers
WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received a warmer public reception from Congress than from the Obama administration, with a top Democrat and Republican joining Tuesday to praise a leader who has refused to back down in a disagreement the White House says threatens new peace talks.

President Barack Obama and Netanyahu met later Tuesday for about 90 minutes in the Oval Office, but in a break with custom reporters were not invited to see them shake hands and begin their discussions. The White House had no immediate comment on what they discussed.

The bipartisan welcome underscored the breadth of congressional support for Israel even when a U.S. president wants to keep his distance. And it pointed to the limited options, beyond verbal rebukes, that the Obama administration faces in pressuring the Jewish state. "We in Congress stand by Israel," the leader of the House, Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat, assured Netanyahu at an all-smiles appearance before the cameras. "In Congress we speak with one voice on the subject of Israel."

Continued on Page 3

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13 attorneys general sue over overhaul



In this May 12, 1965 file photo, Secretary of the interior Stewart Udall makes a little speech and gives Liz Carpenter, press secretary for Ladybird Johnson, with “Chief Otter” award at Peaks of Otter, Va., on Blue Ridge parkway. Stewart Udall, who sowed the seeds of the modern environmental movement as secretary of the interior during the 1960s and later became a crusader for victims of radiation exposure from the government’s Cold War nuclear programs, died Saturday, March 20, 2010. He was 90. Liz Carpenter, an author and former press secretary to first lady Lady Bird Johnson, died Saturday, March 20, 2010 at an Austin hospital after contracting pneumonia earlier in the week, her daughter said. Carpenter was 89.

Associated Press

By **BRENDAN FARRINGTON** — Attorneys general from 13 states sued the federal government Tuesday, claiming

the landmark health care overhaul is unconstitutional just seven minutes after President Barack Obama signed it into law.

The lawsuit was filed in Pensacola after the Democratic president signed the 10-year, \$938 billion bill the House passed Sunday night.

“The Constitution nowhere authorizes the United States to mandate, either directly or under threat of penalty, that all citizens and legal residents have qualifying health care coverage,” the lawsuit says. Legal experts say it has little chance of success.

Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum is taking the lead and is joined by attorneys general from South Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Michigan, Utah, Pennsylvania, Alabama, South Dakota, Idaho, Washington, Colorado and Louisiana. All are Republicans except James “Buddy” Caldwell of Louisiana, a

Democrat. Some states are considering separate lawsuits — Virginia filed its own Tuesday — and still others may join the multistate suit. In Michigan, the Thomas More Law Center of Ann Arbor, a Christian legal advocacy group, sued on behalf of itself and four people it says don’t have private health insurance and object to being told they have to purchase it.

McCollum, who is running for governor, argues the bill will cause “substantial harm and financial burden” to the states. State Sen. Dan Gelber, a Democrat running for McCollum’s job, said the lawsuit is nothing more than a stunt to gain political points as McCollum runs for governor. “It is rank politics and nothing but,” said Gelber, noting that 4 million Floridians don’t have health insurance. “He spends no time talking about what he would do as governor about that, but he seems to have an

inordinate amount of time to jump up on a soap box and start demagoguing on the issue.”

The lawsuit claims the bill violates the 10th Amendment, which says the federal government has no authority beyond the powers granted to it under the Constitution, by forcing the states to carry out its provisions but not reimbursing them for the costs. “No public policy goal — no matter how important or well-intentioned — can be allowed to trample the protections and rights guaranteed by our Constitution,” Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said in a statement.

The lawsuit also says the states can’t afford the new law. Using Florida as an example, the lawsuit says the overhaul will add almost 1.3 million people to the state’s Medicaid rolls and cost the state an additional \$150 million in 2014, growing to \$1 billion a year by 2019. □

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ISRAEL

Continued from Front Page

At issue is Israel's announcement two weeks ago that it will build 1,600 new apartments in east Jerusalem, the largely Arab section of the disputed holy city. Palestinians claim east Jerusalem as the capital of a future state and have held up new U.S.-sponsored peace talks over what they say is an Israeli land grab.

Israel unveiled a grandiose plan for hotels, businesses and new housing for Palestinians in the center of east Jerusalem, according to a statement issued Tuesday, but the announcement only brought Palestinian suspicion that it was an unacceptable payoff for new building in Jewish neighborhoods.

The plan calls for developing a large area across from the Old City wall for tourism and commerce, as well as building 1,000 additional apartments. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton greeted Netanyahu this week with a polite rebuke. Expansionist Israeli housing policies erode trust and the U.S. position as an honest broker, she said. Netanyahu's public reply came quickly: Jews have built their homes in Jerusalem for centuries and will continue, he told a pro-Israel audience. U.S. Mideast peace envoy George Mitchell spent Sunday and Monday shuttling between Israeli and Palestinian officials. He returned to Washington for meetings on Tuesday but appeared to have made little headway with the Palestinians. The State Department said the administration had "seen progress" from Mitchell's discussion but gave no dates for the start of a new round of talks with Mitchell as go-between.

P.J. Crowley, the State Department spokesman, told The Associated Press that the U.S. and Israel were currently engaged in "give and take." "We are not going to talk about the precise steps both sides have to take. We will continue to discuss those steps privately," Crowley said. Both nations are now trying to move on without backing down. But in the Capitol,

lawmakers lavished praise on Israel.

"We have no stronger ally anywhere in the world than Israel," said House Republican leader John Boehner. "We all know we're in a difficult moment. I'm glad the prime minister is here so we can have an open dialogue."

Other Republicans have weighed in on Israel's side, criticizing the Obama administration for its handling of the crisis.

"I never thought I'd live to see the day that an American administration would denounce the state of Israel for rebuilding Jerusalem," Rep. Mike Pence said on the House floor Tuesday after meeting Netanyahu. "I urge the president to stop all this talk about settlements in Jerusalem and start focusing on isolating a threatening and menacing and rising nuclear Iran."

Pelosi and Boehner both pointed to the threat from Iran as a top concern and an area in which the United States will cooperate with Israel. Netanyahu thanked his congressional hosts for what he called warm, bipartisan support.

"We face two great challenges," Netanyahu said, a "quest for peace with our Palestinian neighbors" and stopping Iran from developing atomic weapons.

Obama has remained out of the fray as Clinton and other U.S. officials have rebuked Israel.

Netanyahu's visit to Washington was planned



House Minority Leader John Boehner of Ohio, center, flanked by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., addresses members of the media on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

before the housing dispute, and the Obama administration appears eager to let Netanyahu's awkwardly timed visit pass with as little public remark as possible. Both countries are eager to defuse the tensions but have refused to detail what promises Netanyahu is making to ease the most serious diplomatic breach between the two nations in decades.

In his meeting with Pelosi, Netanyahu said Israel had been building in east Jerusalem since the 1967 Mideast war, when it captured the West Bank from Jordan and would continue, according to Netanyahu's office.

The United States and other would-be international peacemakers have never recognized Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem and equate the Jewish concentrations there with Jewish settlements on the West Bank. The West Bank would make up the bulk

of a future Palestinian state, and Palestinians claim that Jewish building leaves them with less space and undesirable or unworkable borders. The Palestinian demand for a halt to building in Jerusalem

as a precondition for peace talks, Netanyahu said, will serve only to delay peace talks further. Netanyahu said the sides "must not be trapped by an unreasonable and illogical demand." □

Associated Press

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Tea Party Demonstrators outside of the House Chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Saturday, March 20, 2010.

LANDMARK BILL

Continued from Front Page

“We have now just enshrined the core principle that everybody should have some basic security when it comes to their health,” Obama said at a signing ceremony at the White House, where he was joined by House and Senate Democrats who backed the bill as well as ordinary Americans whose health care struggles

have touched the president.

“We are not a nation that scales back its aspirations. We are not a nation that falls prey to doubt or mistrust,” Obama said. “That’s not who we are. That’s not how we got here.” The plan is expected to extend coverage to 32 million uninsured Americans, reduce federal budget deficits and ban such insurance company practices as denying coverage

to people with existing medical problems. Obama has pushed health care as his top priority since taking office in January 2009. Failure would have weakened him and endangered other issues on the president’s ambitious domestic agenda, including immigration reform and climate change legislation. Republicans were united in opposition to Obama’s redesign of the health care

system, criticizing it as a costly government takeover affecting one-sixth of the U.S. economy. They have vowed to use the issue to try to regain control of Congress in this year’s elections.

“By signing this bill, President Obama is abandoning our founding principle that government governs best when it governs closest to the people,” said House Republican leader John Boehner. “Never before has such a monumental change to our government been carried out without the support of both parties.

Shortly after Obama signed the bill, mostly Republican attorneys general from 13 states said they are suing the federal government to stop the health care overhaul, arguing that the provision that requires Americans to carry health insurance is unconstitutional. Experts say the effort will likely fail because the U.S. Constitution states that federal law supersedes state laws, but the legal challenge may keep the issue fresh in the mind of voters come November.

Democratic lawmakers say they have delivered on Obama’s campaign pledge for

change, revamping a system in which the spiraling costs have put health care and insurance out of the reach of many Americans.

Now the president must sell the law’s merits to a wary American public.

The next act begins Thursday, when Obama visits Iowa City, Iowa, where he announced his health care plan as a presidential candidate in May 2007. There Obama plans to talk about how the new law will help lower health care costs for small businesses and families, selling the overhaul to Americans who are deeply divided over the plan.

The House passed the 10-year, \$938 billion bill Sunday night after a rancorous debate. Not one Republican voted for the bill. Some Democrats also voted against it.

The measure represents the biggest expansion of the U.S. federal government’s social safety net since President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted the Medicare and Medicaid government-funded health care coverage programs for the elderly and poor.

A companion measure sought by House Democrats to make a series of changes to the main bill was approved 220-211.

It goes to the Senate, where debate could begin as early as Tuesday. Majority Leader Harry Reid says he has the votes to pass it — though only under special budget rules requiring just 50 votes rather than the 60 usually needed to bypass the opposition’s delaying tactics.

Republicans plan to offer scores of amendments to slow or change the companion measure, which Democrats hope to approve as written and send directly to Obama for his signature. Both the House and Senate had passed separate versions and were close to resolving their differences when the Democrats lost a crucial Senate seat in a January special election that put the effort in peril. The Democrats regrouped and came up with a compromise that required the House to approve the Senate-passed measure despite opposition to many of its provisions, then have both chambers pass a measure incorporating numerous changes. □

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Judge: No prom but U.S. lesbian's right violated

SHELIA BYRD

Associated Press Writer

JACKSON, Mississippi (AP) — A Mississippi school district violated a lesbian student's rights by banning her from bringing her girlfriend to the prom, a federal judge ruled Tuesday, but he stopped short of forcing the district to hold the event.

U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson refused the American Civil Liberties Union's demand to force the Itawamba County school district to put on the April 2 prom. However, he said canceling it did violate 18-year-old Constance McMillen's rights and that he would hold a trial on the issue.

That would come too late for the prom to be salvaged at Itawamba Agricultural High School. Still, Kristy Bennett, ACLU Mississippi legal director, called the decision a victory.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the district to force it to put on the prom and allow McMillen to bring her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo. School officials said in U.S. District Court this week that they decided to cancel it because McMillen's challenge to the rules had caused disruptions.

The judge noted that McMillen has been openly gay since she was in the eighth grade and that she intended to communicate a message by wearing a tuxedo and escorting a same-sex date.

"The court finds this expression and communication falls squarely within the purview of the First Amendment," Davidson said.

As for McMillen, she said she was happy about the ruling but doesn't know what to expect when she returns to school. She attended classes a day after the March 10 decision to cancel the prom. But she said the hostility and comments from other students led her to miss school. She skipped class on Tuesday to go to the doctor

and the fight is taking a toll, she said.

"My nerves are shot," she said.

District officials said in a statement that they were ready to get back to educating students.

Davidson said a private prom parents are planning will serve the same purpose as a school-sponsored one. He wrote that "requiring defendants to step back into a sponsorship role at this late date would only confuse and confound the community on the issue."

McMillen isn't sure if she'll go to the dance.

"I'm going to school tomorrow (Wednesday) and will get a feel of how everybody feels about me. That will help me make my decision about whether I'm going to the private prom," McMillen said. "I want to go because all my junior and senior class will be there, but I don't want to be somewhere I'm not welcomed."

Ben Griffith, the school district's attorney, said his clients were pleased with the ruling.

"What we're looking at now is the fact that the case is still on the docket for a trial on the merits," Griffith said.

McMillen first approached school officials about bringing her girlfriend in December, and again in February. Same-sex prom dates had been banned in the past, but she had hoped school officials would grant her request.

"I thought maybe the policy had been in place for a different reason," McMillen testified at a hearing on the ACLU lawsuit. "I wanted to let them know how it made me feel. I felt like I couldn't go to the prom."

She was told two girls couldn't attend together and she wouldn't be allowed to wear a tuxedo, court documents show. The ACLU issued a demand letter earlier this month and the district responded by canceling the event. McMillen, who lives

with her grandmother and has a 3.8 grade point average, has kept her 16-year-old girlfriend out of the spotlight at the request of the girl's parents.

District officials said they felt not hosting the prom was the best decision "after taking into consideration the education, safety and well being of our students." Superintendent Teresa McNeece said it was "a no-win situation."

The 715-student high school is located in Fulton, a town of about 4,000 in rural, north Mississippi. The entire county school district has 3,588 students.

The case is typical of what's happening in schools across the country, said Charles Haynes, senior scholar for The Freedom Forum First Amendment Center.

"This case is different



because this is not just dress, it is a higher claim of personal identity," Haynes said. "I think that if the student prevails in this case, it will send a message to school districts that they need to accommodate students now who are openly gay and lesbian and want to participate in student activities," Haynes said. Her case has become a cause celebre.

She has appeared on the "The Early Show," "The Wanda Sykes Show" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" to talk about how she is fighting for tolerance. DeGeneres presented her with a \$30,000 college scholarship from Tonic, a digital media company. A Facebook page set up by the ACLU for McMillen has over 400,000 fans. □

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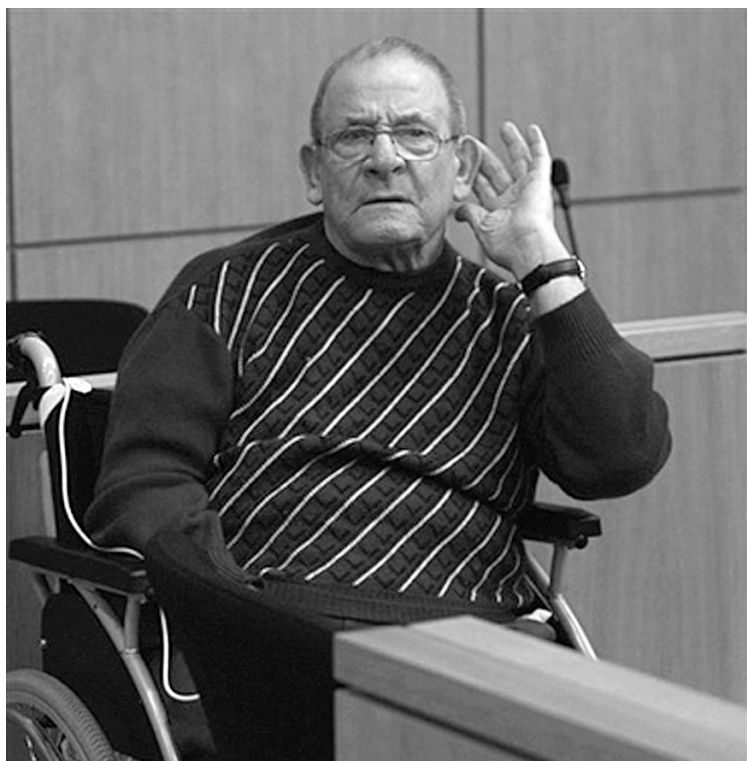
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Former Nazi hit man convicted over WWII murders



Former member of Adolf Hitler's Waffen SS, Heinrich Boere, sits in his wheelchair during his trial in the courtroom of the court in Aachen, Germany, Tuesday, March 23, 2010. The only known living accomplice of a former member of the Nazi SS is accused of three counts of murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Associated Press

DAVID RISING

Associated Press Writer

AACHEN, Germany (AP) — A German court on Tuesday convicted an 88-year-old of murdering three Dutch civilians as part of a Nazi hit squad during World War II, capping six decades of efforts to bring the former Waffen SS man to justice.

Heinrich Boere, number six on the Simon Wiesenthal Center's list of most-wanted Nazis, was given the maximum sentence of life in prison for the 1944 killings.

"These were murders that could hardly be outdone in terms of baseness and cowardice — beyond the respectability of any soldier," presiding judge Gerd Nohl said.

Boere sat in his wheelchair, staring at the floor and showing no visible reaction as

the verdict was announced. For Dolf Bicknese, it was the first time he had seen in person the man who killed his father in 1944 — but he said he felt little emotion staring Boere in the face.

"The person hardly interests me any more," the 73-year-old told The Associated Press. "My interest is justice."

During the trial, which began in October, Boere admitted killing a bicycle-shop owner; Bicknese's father, a pharmacist; and another civilian as a member of the "Silbertanne" hit squad — a unit of largely Dutch SS volunteers responsible for reprisal killings of countrymen who were considered anti-German.

He said he had no choice but to follow orders to carry out the killings.

"As a simple soldier, I learned to carry out orders," Boere testified in December.

"And I knew that if I didn't carry out my orders I would be breaking my oath and would be shot myself."

But the prosecution argued that Boere was a willing member of the fanatical Waffen SS, which he joined shortly after the Nazis overran his hometown of Maastricht and the rest of the Netherlands in 1940.

Judge Nohl noted that there was no evidence Boere ever even tried to question his orders. He characterized the murders as hit-style slayings, with Boere and his accomplices dressed in civilian clothes and surprising their victims at their homes or places of work late at night or early in the morning.

"The victims had no real chance," Nohl said.

Though sentenced to death in absentia in the Netherlands in 1949, later commuted to life imprisonment, Boere has managed to avoid jail until now.

One German court refused to extradite him because it ruled he might have German nationality as well as Dutch. Another would not force him to serve his Dutch sentence in a German prison because he was absent from his trial, having fled to Germany.

"We welcome the conviction,

we welcome the sentence and this is again another proof that even at this point it is possible to bring Nazi war criminals to justice," Efraim Zuroff, the top Nazi hunter at the Simon Wiesenthal Center, said by telephone from Jerusalem.

"It also underscores the significance of the renewed activity on the part of the German prosecution," he said.

Defense lawyer Gordon Christiansen said he would appeal to a German federal court. Boere will remain free until the appeals process is complete — and that could take two to three years if it goes to the European Court of Human Rights, Christiansen said.

Teun de Groot, whose father of the same name was the bicycle-shop owner killed by Boere, said it was "a shame" Boere would not be imprisoned immediately but was happy nonetheless.

"The verdict here is good," the 77-year-old said.

Boere was born in Eschweiler, Germany — on the outskirts of Aachen, where he lives today. The son of a Dutch man and a German woman, he moved to the Netherlands when he was an infant.

Boere has testified that he decided to join the SS as an 18-year-old after the Germans had overrun the Netherlands and he saw a recruiting poster signed by Heinrich Himmler that inspired him.

After fighting on the Russian front, Boere ended up back in the Netherlands as part of "Silbertanne" — a death squad believed to be responsible for 54 killings in Holland.

According to statements Boere made to Dutch authorities after the war, he and a fellow SS man were given a list of names slated for "retaliatory measures."

Their first target was the pharmacist, Fritz Hubert Ernst Bicknese.

The two walked into the pharmacy and asked the man there if he was Bicknese. When he answered "yes," Boere pulled his pistol from his right coat pocket and fired two or three shots into Bicknese's upper body. □

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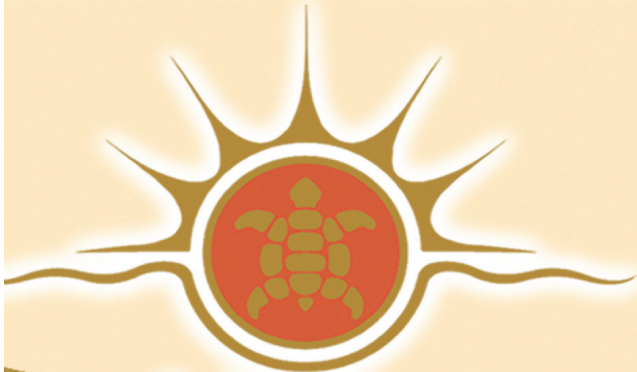
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8 children stabbed to death at Chinese school

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press Writer

BEIJING (AP) — A former medical worker allegedly stabbed to death eight young children and wounded five others Tuesday in a bloody rampage outside an elementary school in eastern China.

The attacker struck in the morning as students arrived for classes, mingling with parents at the school gates before suddenly pulling out his knife and slashing children, according to witnesses interviewed on local television.

In the aftermath, doctors treated small children and bodies lay covered in bloody sheets after the attack at Nanping City Experimental Elementary School in Fujian province. Police officers manned a cordon around the school. Some comforted distraught parents.

China has witnessed a series of school attacks in recent years, most blamed on people with personal grudges or suffering from mental illness, leading to calls for improved security.

The rampage in Nanping was finally stopped by passers-by and school security guards and the attacker was arrested, the reports said. The suspect was identified as Zheng Minsheng, 41.

Zheng worked as a senior nurse in a community clinic before

resigning last June, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing Huang Zhongping, spokesman for the Nanping city public security bureau.

Zheng was known to have a history of mental illness, said a man surnamed Wu in the Nanping city government office, who would not give his full name as is common among Chinese officials.

An unidentified former co-worker interviewed on Fujian television said Zheng was “difficult to get along with.”

Eight children were killed, and five were being treated at a hospital, Wu said. Six died at the scene, which was smeared with blood from the sidewalk to the floor of an inner reception room.

The victims’ ages were not immediately known, but Chinese elementary schools typically have students ages 6 to 12.

The school was closed and students were sent home for the day. Counseling will be provided for students when classes resume Wednesday, Xinhua said.

Recent school attacks include a July 2007 assault in which a mentally ill man wielding a wrench wounded 18 children and a teacher in a kindergarten in southern China before fleeing on a motorcycle and trying to stab himself to death.

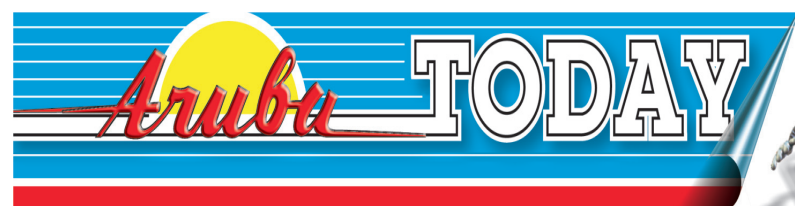


A Chinese woman whose child was killed in a stabbing incident gets help outside an elementary school in Nanping in east China’s Fujian province Tuesday March 23, 2010. A former doctor armed with a large knife killed eight children and injured five others Tuesday at the school, a local official said.

Associated Press

In June the same year, a man slashed four students, wounding one seriously, in a high school in the southeastern city of Fuzhou, while elsewhere, police shot dead a suspected mentally ill man who threatened to blow up a school in southern China with dynamite. China’s worst such incident in March

2001 destroyed a schoolhouse and killed at least 42 people, most of them children. Officials blamed a mentally ill man who charged into the school in Jiangxi province with a bag full of dynamite. Parents disputed that, claiming their children had been forced to make fireworks at the school. □



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Obama officials say U.S. drug demand fuels violence



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, left, and Mexico's Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa shake hands as they pose for photos after a joint press conference in Mexico City, Tuesday, March 23, 2010. Clinton told that the drug cartels responsible for increasing violence in the border region are fighting not just Mexican military and law enforcement forces but also the United States.

ROBERT BURNS,
AP National Security Writer
MEXICO CITY (AP) — A cast of senior U.S. security officials pledged long-term support for Mexico's drug war while acknowledging Tuesday that an insatiable U.S. appetite for illegal narcotics, coupled with a flow of U.S. arms into Mexico, is at the core of the problem.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who led the U.S. delegation at a daylong

Associated Press meeting with top Mexican government officials, told a news conference afterward that Washington must do more to limit the movement of illicit weapons into Mexico from the U.S.

"Yes, we accept our share of the responsibility," Clinton said, with Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa at her side. "We know that the demand for drugs drives much of this illicit trade and that guns purchases in the U.S. are

used to facilitate violence here in Mexico.

The United States must and is doing its part" to counteract those two elements of the drug-related violence.

Clinton said the administration would make public very shortly a new drug policy and that it would include strategies for reducing drug demand. She said U.S. policy also takes into account that the drug cartels that operate along the border are a problem for both countries.

"There is no question that they are fighting against both of our governments," she said, according to a copy of her closed-door remarks. "Tragically, that fact was underscored on March 13th," with the murders of two Americans and a Mexican affiliated with the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez, Clinton said.

To send a message that the U.S. was serious about its pledge to cooperate with the Mexican government, it sent the Obama administration's most senior deputies — including Defense Secretary Robert Gates and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen.

"Sending a delegation of this stature to Mexico shows our level of commitment to working with the Mexican government to help them combat this threat within their midst, and one that ultimately permeates into our country and becomes a threat to our citizens as well," said Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell.

U.S. officials see a strategic problem with their neighbor's surging violence and unstable judicial and law enforcement systems. Mexican officials blame that instability on the U.S. demand for lucrative and illegal narcotics.

Clinton said the administration is "looking at everything that can work" to combat the drug cartels. But when asked by a reporter whether that included considering decriminalizing narcotics in the United States, she replied with a single word: "No."

The U.S. has sent helicopters, x-ray vans and sniffer dogs to help Mexico tackle drug cartels, but Mexican leaders attending the one-day session with the visiting U.S. officials say that to really help, the Americans must tackle their problem of drug consumption.

Both presidents Barack Obama and Felipe Calderon have repeatedly stressed that theirs is a "cooperative effort" to disrupt Mexico's powerful drug cartels, whose power struggles with each other and authorities have led to the killings of 17,900 people since Calderon took office in late 2006.

Clinton was scheduled to meet separately with Calderon before returning to Washington.

Attending with Clinton, Gates and Mullen were Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair and John Brennan, President Barack Obama's counterterrorism and homeland security adviser. Senior officials from the departments of Justice and Treasury also participated, along with officials from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Napolitano signed a new agreement with Mexican officials on border and aviation security. Details were not immediately released.

Napolitano said the U.S. shares blame for the enormity of the drug violence problem. "We need to keep focusing on that drug demand reduction issue," she told reporters aboard the U.S. government jet that ferried her, Clinton and other senior officials from Washington.

Napolitano said Calderon made the right decision to use military force against the drug organizations, but in the U.S. view it will take a broader effort, to include more civilian law enforcement agencies and deeper U.S. assistance, to prevail in the long run.

As a reminder of the scope of the problem of drug-related violence, Mexican authorities arranged outside Tuesday's meeting room a table full of weapons that had been smuggled through the U.S. and confiscated from drug cartels in Mexico. They included dozens of pistols, rocket launchers, assault rifles and machine guns — including gold-plated AK-47s with engraved wood handles.

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U.S. warns of al-Qaida threat to ships off Yemen

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. is warning of possible al-Qaida attacks against ships off the coast of Yemen, where an offshoot of the terrorist network has established a significant base of operations over the past year.

Yemen became a focus of deep international concern

in December when al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula claimed responsibility for the failed attempt to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner, showing the group based in an impoverished and unstable corner of the Middle East had global reach.

“Information suggests that

al-Qaida remains interested in maritime attacks in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden along the coast of Yemen,” said an advisory from the U.S. Department of Transportation, which was posted on the U.S. Office of Naval Intelligence Web site.

Cuban attorney general out due to health reasons

WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press Writer

HAVANA (AP) — Cuba announced its second leadership shake-up of the month on Tuesday, replacing Attorney General Juan Escalona Reguera, who fought under Fidel and Raul Castro in the rebel army that toppled dictator Fulgencio Batista more than half a century ago.

A brief statement read on Cuban state television said the 78-year-old Escalona Reguera was leaving his post for health reasons. He apparently remains a member of the Communist Party Central Committee.

A lawyer by training, Escalona Reguera is one of the most veteran figures in Cuba's revolutionary leadership, joining Raul Castro's rebel column in eastern Cuba in 1958, and presiding over the wedding of Raul Castro and Vilma Espin the following year.

He served as a brigadier general and top administrator before becoming justice minister in 1983, and head of parliament six years later.

Escalona Reguera also acted as chief prosecutor during the controversial 1989 drug smuggling and treason case that led to the execution by firing squad of decorated war hero Gen. Arnaldo Ochoa, who had led Cuban troops on the battlefields of Angola and Ethiopia.

Escalona Reguera's replacement is Brig. Gen.

Dario Delgado, who had been deputy attorney general.

Tuesday's statement said Escalona Reguera would be assigned “other duties” on the Council of State, Cuba's highest governing body.

On March 9, Cuba abruptly announced it had replaced another veteran revolutionary, Rogelio Acevedo, who had overseen its airlines and airports and as a teenager fought alongside the Castros and Ernesto “Che” Guevara.

Unlike with Escalona Reguera, no reason was given for the removal of the 68-year-old Acevedo, who played a key role in expanding Cuba's tourism industry.

Escalona Reguera was born in the eastern city of Santiago in 1931, attended law school and became a member of the Communist Party. He said party officials balked at his

decision to join the Castro brothers' rebellion, which they initially viewed with suspicion.

After Batista fled on New Year's Day 1959, Raul Castro served as defense minister for nearly 50 years before taking over the presidency from Fidel — first temporarily, then permanently — in July 2006.

Escalona Reguera helped organize the post-revolutionary trials of Batista government, military and police officials, as well as civilian supporters of his government, following the revolution. Many were convicted and executed.

Escalona Reguera also was briefly punished himself — sent to perform manual labor — in the early 1960s, when he was accused of favoring former Communist Party members over other revolutionaries in assignments. □



Ships are seen off the coast of Singapore, Thursday March 4, 2010. Singapore's Navy is warning that a terrorist group is planning attacks on oil tankers in the Malacca Straits. According to an advisory issued Wednesday by the Navy's Information Fusion Center seen by The Associated Press, terrorists may also be targeting other vessels in the shipping lane off Malaysia's east coast.

Associated Press

The warning said such attacks could be similar to the 2000 strike against the Navy destroyer USS Cole in Yemen's Aden harbor that killed 17 American sailors. The attackers used a small boat laden with explosives to blow a hole in the side of the ship.

“Other more sophisticated methods of attack could include missiles or projectiles,” said the advisory, which was dated March 10.

In particular, ships are at greatest risk while in or near

ports or at anchor, it said.

The statement advised vessels in the waterway leading to and from the Suez Canal to maintain 24-hour visual and radar watches and regularly report their position, course and speed to maritime authorities.

Besides an al-Qaida threat, ships transiting the area have been beset by Somali pirates who have seized control of vessels ranging from fishing trawlers to oil supertankers in search of ransoms in the millions of dollars. □



In this photo released by Brazil's Presidency, Cuba's President Raul Castro, left, Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, center, and former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, right, pose for a photo in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010.

Associated Press



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Witness: Michael Jackson doctor interrupted CPR

By THOMAS WATKINS,
Associated Press Writer
LOS ANGELES – As Michael Jackson lay dying in his bedroom in a rented mansion, his doctor stopped CPR on him and delayed calling paramedics so he could collect drug vials at the scene, according to an employee of the pop star who called 911. Alberto Alvarez, who worked as Jackson's logistics director, told investigators that after

O'Donnell looking to come back to daytime TV



Rosie O'Donnell arrives to a HBO screening of 'A Mothers Courage: Talking Back To Autism' in New York, on Monday, March 22, 2010.

(AP Photo/Peter Kramer)

NEW YORK – Rosie O'Donnell says she's looking to come back to daytime TV with a show that will be about "laughter and love in the afternoon."

O'Donnell says the time is right for her return. She's looking to start a show next year, after daytime's dominant personality, Oprah Winfrey, ends her own.

O'Donnell told "Entertainment Tonight" that her new show will not be political or celebrity-driven. She says it will be a single-topic show. One example could be an hour on dealing with teenagers.

She has reportedly formed a company with two former Warner Bros. executives to pitch the show to television networks independently — an unusual approach in the syndication business. □



FILE - In this Monday, Feb. 8, 2010 file photo, Michael Jackson's physician, Conrad Murray, right, arrives for his arraignment at the Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles, where he is expected to face involuntary manslaughter charges in Jackson's death. Murray halted CPR on the dying pop star and delayed calling paramedics so he could collect drug vials at the scene, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press that shed new light on the singer's chaotic final moments.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, FILE)

receiving a distress call from another worker June 25, he rushed up the stairs of Jackson's home and entered a bedroom to find the singer lying on a bed with his arms outstretched and his eyes and mouth open.

At his side, Jackson's personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, was administering CPR with one hand.

"Alberto, Alberto, come quickly," Murray said, according to a statement obtained by The Associated Press. "He had a reaction, he had a bad reaction."

Two of the star's children, Prince and Paris, came in the room and cried as they saw Murray trying to save their father. They were quickly ushered away.

The account and other statements obtained by the AP depict a grisly scene in Jackson's room in the final minutes before paramedics arrived.

Jackson's death at age 50 was ruled a homicide caused by an overdose of the powerful anesthetic propofol and other sedatives.

The possibility that Murray may have tried to hide evidence is likely to be a focus as prosecutors move ahead with their involuntary manslaughter case against him.

Alvarez told police he arrived at Jackson's home around 10:20 a.m. He was awaiting instructions for the day in a security trailer outside Jackson's rented mansion when, at 12:17 p.m., his phone rang. It was Jackson's personal assistant Michael Amir Williams, who said Jackson was in trouble.

Alvarez said he was "frozen and stunned" when he saw Jackson on the bed.

Murray then grabbed a few vials with rubber tops and told Alvarez to put them in a bag, Alvarez told investigators.

Alvarez picked up a plastic bag from the floor and Murray put the bottles inside, then Murray told Alvarez to put that plastic bag inside a brown canvas bag, according to the account.

Alvarez said Murray then told him to remove an IV bag from a stand and put it in a blue canvas bag. He did, and noticed the bag had a connector with a milky white substance in it. Alvarez didn't say what happened to the bags, nor did he identify what was in the vials.

Two days after Jackson's death, under several hours of questioning by police, Murray eventually directed them to a closet in Jackson's bedroom. In it, they found propofol and other sedatives in a bag.

Murray's lawyer, Ed Chernoff, rejected the notion his client tried to hide drugs. He also noted Alvarez was interviewed twice by police and gave different accounts of what happened in Jackson's bedroom. During the first interview, Alvarez did not mention being told to tidy away medicine vials.

"He wasn't putting bottles in a bag and trying to hide them," Chernoff said. "We are confident that a fair trial will ferret out the truth."

On the day Jackson died, Murray waited until the bags were filled before telling Alvarez to call 911, according to Alvarez's statement.

The documents also detail an odd encounter with Murray after Jackson was declared dead at a nearby hospital. Murray insisted he needed to return to the mansion to get cream that Jackson had "so the world wouldn't find out about it," according to the statements, which provide no elaboration.

Alvarez and the others who gave the statements, Williams and driver/bodyguard Faheem Muhammad, could be key witnesses should Murray go to trial. Except for the brief appearances by the nanny and the children, Alvarez and Muhammad were the only others in the room with Murray as he tried to save Jackson before paramedics arrived.

Murray, 57, a cardiologist licensed in Nevada, California and Texas, has acknowledged briefly leaving Jackson's bedside the day he died but maintained from the outset that nothing he gave the singer should have killed him. It wasn't illegal for him to administer propofol, though whether he followed proper procedures while Jackson was under the influence is a key part of the case. □

Accused Patridge stalker to get mental evaluation



FILE - In this Dec. 16, 2009 file photo, Audrina Patridge arrives at the premiere of 'Avatar' in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

LOS ANGELES – A judge in Los Angeles has suspended the criminal case against a man charged with stalking Audrina Patridge so doctors can evaluate his mental competency.

Zachary Loring attempted to plead guilty Tuesday to a felony charge that he stalked "The Hills" star, but his attorney objected and a judge refused to accept the plea.

The 24-year-old criticized the court in a brief profanity-laced tirade before being returned to custody. He is being held on \$150,000 bail after his arrest outside Patridge's home in February.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William Ryan ordered two doctors to evaluate Loring.

Patridge obtained a civil restraining order against Loring last year after he repeatedly showed up at her Hollywood Hills home. □

BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Debate on the future of Fannie, Freddie heats up

By ALAN ZIBEL,
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers are starting to wrestle with how to replace Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the mortgage giants that nearly collapsed at the start of the financial meltdown.

In September 2008, the government seized control of Fannie and Freddie — massive companies that purchase home loans, package them into investments and guarantee them against default. Since then, the government has pumped a combined \$126 billion into the companies to keep them afloat. House lawmakers on Tuesday held their first hearing about how to restructure the mortgage system in the wake of the financial crisis. For the time being, the market is still resting on three government pillars: Fannie, Freddie and the Federal Housing Administration.

Last year, the two companies backed about 70 percent of all home loans, according to Inside Mortgage Finance, a trade publication. The duo also manage the Obama administration's \$75 billion loan modification program.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said there is consensus about replacing Fannie and Freddie, but little agreement on what should take their place.

"You can't really tear down the old jail until you've built the new one," said Frank, who traded barbs with Republicans about who deserved more blame for the collapse of Fannie and Freddie.

Since the government took over Fannie and Freddie, Obama officials have given few details on their long-term thinking. In the meantime, officials plan to seek public comment on a list of questions to be published next month.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said it should take several months to develop the administration's plan.

"We can start that process in



This combination image shows troubled mortgage firms Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Fannie Mae announced Friday a net loss of 16.3 billion dollars for the fourth quarter, the full-year 2009 red ink to 74.7 billion dollars.

(AFP/File/Files)

earnest," he told lawmakers. "I don't see why this should take years."

Many experts say the government's explicit support will be needed in the future to make sure investors stay in the market. Geithner agreed that there is "some role for a guarantee of some sort" that the government would provide to mortgage securities.

At the moment, Fannie and Freddie's debt does not have the same level of government support as bonds issued by the Treasury Department. But Geithner repeatedly tried to reassure investors, reciting several variations on a theme: "We will make sure that they have the financial resources necessary to meet their obligations." In several exchanges, Republicans displayed frustration with Geithner. Rep. Spencer Bachus of Alabama, the committee's senior Republican, called the Obama administration's lack of action "unacceptable."

And Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas, tried unsuccessfully to pin Geithner down on when the administration would detail his plans. "Is there a timetable or is there not a timetable?" he asked Geithner, who didn't reply directly. □

Stocks climb after home sales top expectations

By STEPHEN BERNARD
and TIM PARADIS,
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Stocks continued their steady climb Tuesday after sales of existing homes fell less than expected. The Dow Jones industrial average rose about 45 points in afternoon trading and broader indexes also climbed.

The report from the National Association of Realtors was typical of recent economic numbers that have been somewhat better than expected but still point to a weak economy. Sales of previously occupied homes fell 0.6 percent last month to an annual rate of 5.02 million. Analysts expected sales would fall to 5 million units, according to Thomson Reuters.

For now, the sales numbers aren't erasing hopes that the economy can recover even if there is only a slow stabilizing in the housing market. The Commerce Department is expected to report new home sales for February on Wednesday. A month ago, investors shrugged off an 11.2 percent drop in sales of new homes.

The market's continuing advance has been welcome but analysts are divided over whether stocks have run too far or if they have more to gain because of improvements in the economy.

The recent gains have been mild in contrast to those of 2010 when triple-digit gains in the Dow were frequent as the index soared higher from a 12-year low.

Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said the market has continued higher because traders don't want placing short-term bets, not because



Michael Pistillo, left, of Barclays Capital shouts out quotes to Joel Lucchese of Stifel, Nicolaus & Company Inc. on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, March 23, 2010, in New York.

of strong belief that stock prices are too low. That makes the advance difficult to justify, he said.

"Look at the daily charts. They just grind higher. We call it the sausage factory. At the end of the day it tastes great but nobody knows how it's made," Saluzzi said.

In midafternoon trading, the Dow rose 45.35, or 0.4 percent, to 10,831.24. The Dow has risen in nine of the past 10 days.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.31, or 0.2 percent, to 1,168.12, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 6.46, or 0.3 percent, to 2,401.86.

Bond prices were little changed. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.67 percent from 3.66 percent late Monday. The dollar rose against most other major currencies. Gold rose.

Crude oil rose 15 cents to \$81.75 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Stocks rose Monday after House lawmakers on Sunday approved a health care overhaul bill that will extend health insurance to 32 million

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams) Americans. Drug and hospital companies rose in part because of the prospect of increased demand.

Traders showed little reaction Tuesday to Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's testimony before Congress about government efforts to overhaul mortgage financiers Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The pair, which were taken over by the government during the credit crisis, guarantee a majority of mortgages. The government's support has helped keep interest rates low as part of an effort to help the housing market recover.

Investors found some news about housing that they didn't like. Homebuilder KB Home slid 73 cents, or 4.2 percent, to \$16.71 after its fiscal first quarter loss was wider than expected and revenue fell short of forecasts.

Three stocks rose for every two that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 564.9 million shares, compared with 573.4 million traded at the same point Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.32, or 0.3 percent, to 685.23. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



NFL changes overtime for playoff games

BARRY WILNER
AP Football Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — The NFL changed its overtime rules for playoff games on Tuesday.

Starting next season, if a team wins the coin toss and then kicks a field goal, the other team gets the ball. If the game becomes tied again after that next series, play will continue under the current sudden-death rules.

Should the team winning the toss immediately score a touchdown, then the game is over. Team owners voted 28-4 in favor of the proposal at the NFL meetings. Minnesota, Buffalo, Cincinnati and Baltimore were against the change. Minnesota lost last season's NFC Championship game in overtime to New Orleans, which won the toss, drove downfield and kicked a field goal to win.

“Modified sudden death is an opportunity to make a pretty good rule ... even better,” said Atlanta Falcons president Rich McKay, co-chairman of the competition committee. “Statistically, it needed to change. It wasn't producing the ‘fairest result.’”

Those statistics showed that



In this Jan. 24, 2010 filephoto, New Orleans Saints kicker Garrett Hartley (5) kicks the game-winning field goal during overtime in the NFC Championship NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings in New Orleans. NFL owners will vote next week whether to allow each team a possession in overtime in the playoffs if the team winning the OT coin toss kicks a field goal on the first series. Previously, the game would end whenever either side scores, as happened in the NFC championship game in January, with New Orleans beating Minnesota on Garrett Hartley's kick.

Associated Press

since 1994, the team that won the overtime coin toss won the game 34.4 percent of the time on the first possession.

Overall, the team that correctly called the coin toss won

overtime games 59.8 percent of the time in the last 15 years, or since kickoffs were moved back 5 yards to the 30.

“Plenty of people on the committee, myself included,

are so-called traditionalists,” Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian said. “I am proud to be one. But once you saw the statistics, it became obvious we had to do something.” □

MLS minimum salary rises to \$40K in labor deal

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Soccer's minimum salary for senior players will rise to \$40,000 this season, and the developmental minimum will go up to \$31,250 under the five-year labor contract agreed to last weekend.

Last year, 40 players among 323 listed by the MLS Players Union at the start of the season made the \$34,000 minimum and 12 more made the developmental minimum of \$20,100. The senior salary will increase 5 percent annually.

As part of the deal, each team's salary budget will rise from \$2.3 million last year to \$2.55 million this season, the league announced on Tuesday. It will then increase 5 percent a year.

Players who are at least 24 and have three or more years of MLS service will have guaranteed contracts — giving the league a majority of players with guaranteed deals for the first time.

Players had been threatening to strike ahead of Thursday's league opener. Although they fell short of gaining free agency, the league is establishing a re-entry draft.

Players 23 and over with three years of service whose options are not exercised will be available at the declined option price. Players 22 and over with one year of service whose deals are terminated and asked to take pay cuts will be available at their last salary.

Players 30 and over with eight years of service whose contracts have expired will go into the draft unless offered a 5 percent raise. □

Nets need two wins to avoid NBA's worst record

TOM CANAVAN
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — All the New Jersey Nets need in their final 12 games are two wins.

Do that, and the Nets will avoid the stigma of being the worst team in NBA history.

The Nets have won seven times in 70 games, or one victory in every 10 games.

And now they have to win twice in the final 12 to avoid ending the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers' 37-year stranglehold on the league's worst mark at 9-73.



A fan with a paper bag over his head watches during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game between the New Jersey Nets and the Miami Heat on Monday, March 22, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Nets have a 7-63 record as the Heat defeated the Nets 99-89.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 15

Spors Briefs

Singh out of Bay Hill because of bad back



Vijay Singh of Fiji, watches his shot after teeing off on the second hole during the third round at the CA Championship golf tournament in Doral, Fla. Saturday, March 13, 2010.

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Vijay Singh has withdrawn from the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill because of a back injury. This is the second straight week the three-time major champion has had to pull out.

He was replaced in the 120-man field on Tuesday by Carl Pettersson, who tied for eighth last week at Innisbrook.

Singh has not won since the end of the 2008 season. He was coming off two strong finishes in Florida until the back problem. It was not clear if he planned to play next week in the Houston Open, where he also is a past champion. □

Dakar Rally returns to Argentina, Chile in 2011

PARIS (AP) — Organizers of the Dakar Rally say the grueling race will take place again in Argentina and Chile for the third straight year in 2011. Organizers said Tuesday the exact route for the Jan. 1-16 race will be unveiled in April. The race was moved to South America in 2009 because of terrorism fears about its traditional path through the Sahara Desert. □



Dakar Rally director, Etienne Lavigne attends the presentation of the 2011 Dakar Rally, in Paris, Tuesday, March 23, 2010.

Associated Press

Ballesteros happy about Woods' return to golf

MADRID (AP) — Seve Ballesteros is thrilled to see Tiger Woods returning to golf, and believes the 14-time major champion has a "great chance" of winning the Masters next month.

The Spaniard said Tuesday the sport would have been in "serious difficulties" had Woods decided to retire following a car crash in November and revelations of extramarital affairs.

"His return is good for the golf world and I am very happy about it," Ballesteros said after being presented as the patron of Spain's bid to host the 2018 Ryder Cup. "I think it is going to help golf in all the world. I think that Tiger Woods takes over so much that if he wasn't around, if he had retired, the golf world would be in serious difficulties."

Woods plans to end more than four months of seclusion and play at Augusta National, one of the most tightly controlled environments in the sport.

Ballesteros, who is fighting brain cancer, said Augusta is the perfect place for Woods' comeback, since he has won the tournament four times. The tournament starts April 8.

"We all know his potential and Augusta is a very long



Golfer Seve Ballesteros of Spain, who is recovering from a brain tumour, is seen during the presentation of a new TV show, in Madrid, Wednesday, March 10, 2010.

Associated Press

course," Ballesteros said. "He is very used to playing long off the tee and he knows the golf course very well, so I think he has a great chance to win." "He is strong, and despite all the difficulties that he has had recently I think he has

the ability to overcome all the obstacles that are put in front of him that could stop him winning," Ballesteros added. "I trust that he can win it." Ballesteros won the Masters twice, to go with three British Open titles. □

Klitschko brothers both want to fight David Haye

ANNA MELNICHUK Associated Press Writer KIEV, Ukraine (AP) — Both Klitschko brothers want to fight WBA heavyweight champion David Haye. "The biggest rival — or obstacle — in this fight is my brother," Vitali Klitschko

said of Wladimir. "We cannot decide who will fight Haye. I think we will have to flip a coin." Vitali said the brothers are "very angry" with Haye after the British fighter showed up at a news conference last year wearing a T-shirt depicting himself standing in a ring over the Ukrainian brothers' bodies, holding their dismembered heads in the air.

"Haye is a man who does not choose his words," Vitali said. "He has always used bizarre ways to express his thoughts, whatever fight he performs in ... creating 'good' publicity." Haye, also a former world cruiserweight champion, will make the first defense of the WBA title against John Ruiz in Manchester, England, on April 3. He won the heavyweight crown from Russia's Nikolai Valuev in November in Germany. Haye says his goal is to unify the titles by beating the Klitschko brothers, who hold the WBC, IBF and WBO belts between them. □

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WORST RECORD

Continued from Page 12

The situation has become so tense that the Nets' chief executive got into a brief shouting match with a fan who wore a bag over his head at times during Monday's 99-89 loss to the Miami Heat.

During the exchange, Brett Yormark pointed a finger at the fan before eventually walking away.

"Our fans have been great and they've stuck with us through a tough season," Yormark said in a statement on Tuesday. "I did not agree with the way this person expressed his opinion of our team last night and I let him know. It's been a frustrating season for all of us, but I will continue to stand up for our players, our fans, and our organization. We have an exciting future ahead and we appreciate all of our fans' support."

What the Nets need, though, is wins.

"Our sense of urgency is high now," said guard Courtney Lee, who just last year played in the NBA finals with the Orlando Magic. "We have to get three wins because no one wants to go down in history in the way we are heading. We have to."

Can they? It's going to be tough. The Nets have lost eight straight games overall and a team-record 14 in a row at their Izod Center. In a loss to the Heat, starting small forward

Terrence Williams sprained his left foot and ankle and had to leave the game. The rookie did not practice on Tuesday. He is wearing a plastic boot and his status for Wednesday's game at home is questionable.

The good news is that the Sacramento Kings are coming to New Jersey to start a five-game road trip. The Kings are 3-7 in their last 10 games, and only 7-28 on the road.

"This is one we have to have, simple as that," Nets point guard Devin Harris said. "Banged up or not, we're running out of opportunities, so this is one we have to have." Of the 12 games left, the Nets have five against teams that are in the top eight in their conference — San Antonio, Phoenix, Milwaukee, Charlotte and Miami. They also have two games with Chicago (33-37), which is ninth in the Eastern Conference and fighting to make the playoffs.

The others are against Sacramento, Detroit, New Orleans, Washington and Indiana.

Winning was a topic the Nets discussed last week at a team meeting. No one wants to finish as a member of the league's worst club, even though this is a team that was stripped by management so it could have plenty of cap space for free agency this summer, a time when stars LeBron James, Dwyane



New Jersey Nets coach John Loyer pleads to the referee to call a foul as Nets' Devin Harris (34) lies on the court during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Miami Heat on Monday, March 22, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Heat defeated the Nets 99-89.

Associated Press

Wade and Chris Bosh all might be on the market.

Over the last two years the front office has traded Richard Jefferson, Jason Kidd and Vince Carter, the trio that helped the team reach the NBA finals in 2002 and 2003.

That's left Harris and second-year center Brook Lopez to carry a team with very little depth. Lopez insisted all he has tried to do is work hard.

"That's what you get paid to do and you have to be

professional and come in every day," he said. "We want this team to improve and win as many games as possible."

Harris said he basically has stopped watching television and reading the newspapers, insisting he gets all the news he wants from the guys covering the team and veteran Keyon Dooling's daily discourses.

"I still love the game. You have to take the highs with the lows," he said. "This is

a low for everybody. It all depends on how you respond from it. It will make me mentally stronger to know this is possible. I don't think anyone in the NBA could really realize this could happen. You take it with a grain of salt and continue to get better as we go along."

"Everybody's watching," he added. "You don't want to be a part of what we're heading towards as of right now. But if we continue to work hard we can live with it." □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Roundup

Wade has 27 pts., 12 asst. as Heat beat Nets

The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Dwyane Wade had 27 points and 12 assists as the Miami Heat scored a 99-89 victory over the free-falling New Jersey Nets on Monday night.

Jermaine O'Neal added 25 points as the Heat improved to eight wins and three losses in a span in which they've climbed to sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Brook Lopez had 26 points, but the Nets (7-63) lost their eighth straight as they possibly head toward the worst record in NBA history. New Jersey has to win two of its final 12 to avoid breaking the Philadelphia 76ers' mark for futility (9-73), set in 1972-73.

The Nets played without interim coach Kiki Vandeweghe, whose mother is gravely ill in California. Assistant John Loyer replaced him.

Hornets 115, Mavericks 99

At New Orleans, Chris Paul played for the first time in 25 games, while Marcus Thornton scored 28 points to help New Orleans beat Dallas.

Returning from a left knee injury, Paul started but was limited to 21 minutes and had 11 points. He helped New Orleans pull away in the fourth quarter, but rookie Darren Collison ran the floor when the Hornets had a remarkable run of 23 straight points from late in the second quarter until early in the third.

David West had 25 points and 10 assists, Morris Peterson had a season-high 20 points and Collison scored 16 for the Hornets.

Jason Terry scored 24 for Dallas, which squandered a 16-point first-quarter lead.

Magic 109, 76ers 93

At Philadelphia, Rashard



Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) puts up a shot as New Jersey Nets' Terrence Williams, left, Coutney Lee (6) and Devin Harris look on during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game Monday, March 22, 2010, in East Rutherford, N.J. Wade led all scorers with 27 points as the Heat defeated the Nets 99-89.

Lewis scored 24 points and Dwight Howard added 23 points and 15 rebounds as Orlando notched its third straight 50-win season.

Vince Carter contributed 17 points and Matt Barnes had 14 for the Southeast Division-leading Magic (50-21), who won 50 games in three straight seasons for the first time since 1993-96.

The Magic have won three straight and 10 of 11.

Andre Iguodala and Elton Brand led the Sixers with 23 points apiece, while Samuel Dalembert had 16 points and 14 rebounds.

Spurs 99, Thunder 96

At Oklahoma City, George Hill scored a career-high 27 points, and San Antonio overcame Kevin Durant's 45 to beat

the hosts and forge a share for sixth place in the Western Conference standings.

Serge Ibaka swatted away Tim Duncan's layup attempt to give the Thunder a chance with 8.8 seconds left, but Thabo Sefolosha missed a 3-pointer from the left wing with 5 seconds remaining after he was left open because of a double-team against Durant. Manu Ginobili then hit one of two free throws with 2.3 seconds left, and Russell Westbrook couldn't connect on a halfcourt shot at the buzzer for the Thunder.

Bulls 98, Rockets 88

At Chicago, Derrick Rose had 27 points, eight assists and seven rebounds to lead Chicago over Houston. Flip Murray added 18 points

and Kirk Hinrich scored 17 for the Bulls, who won back-to-back games after losing a season-high 10 in a row.

The Rockets lost for just the second time in seven games. Luis Scola led Houston with 22 points and 10 rebounds and Kevin Martin added 19 points.

Bucks 98, Hawks 95

At Milwaukee, John Salmons scored 32 points, including the tiebreaking free throws with 21.8 seconds remaining, to lead the home team to a come-from-behind victory.

In a matchup of possible first-round playoff opponents, Salmons and Hawks All-Star Joe Johnson went back and forth down the stretch until the Milwaukee guard, who scored 16 in the fourth quarter, pulled it out.

Carlos Delfino added 23 points for the Bucks.

Raptors 106, Timberwolves 100

At Minneapolis, Chris Bosh had 21 points and 10 rebounds to help sluggish Toronto hand Minnesota its 13th straight loss.

Andrea Bargnani had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who beat the Timberwolves for the 12th consecutive time. Al Jefferson had 22 points and seven rebounds for the Timberwolves, who have lost 19 of their last 20 games.

Jazz 110, Celtics 97

At Salt Lake City, Mehmet Okur scored all of his 14 points in the second half and pulled down 15 rebounds, while Deron Williams added 22 points and 11 assists as Utah ended Boston's four-game winning streak.

C.J. Miles added 23 points and Carlos Boozer overcame early foul trouble to finish with 19 points — all but one in the second half — nine rebounds

and two blocks. Okur added three blocks for the Jazz, who controlled the lane and outscored the Celtics 50-36 inside.

Ray Allen had 15 points for the Celtics. Glen Davis scored 13, Paul Pierce 11 and Kevin Garnett 10.

Grizzlies 102, Kings 85

At Sacramento, Zach Randolph had 25 points and 12 rebounds, and Memphis used the streaky shooting of O.J. Mayo in the fourth quarter to beat the home team.

Mayo had 20 points and Rudy Gay 17. Mike Conley scored 12 points and Hasheem Thabeet added 10 for the Grizzlies, who outscored the Kings 51-33 in the second half.

Carl Landry scored 23 for the Kings, who played without Tyreke Evans and have lost three of four. Beno Udrih had 18 points and 10 assists, and Spencer Hawes added 13 points.

Suns 133, Warriors 131

At Oakland, Amare Stoudemire scored 37 points and Jason Richardson had a season-high 34 as Phoenix held off Golden State for its fifth straight victory.

Reggie Williams, an NBA Development League product who was signed for the remainder of the season on Monday, scored a career-high 29 points for Golden State.

The Suns remained in fifth place in the Western Conference playoff race, one game behind Utah.

Orlando 109, Philadelphia 93; Miami 99, New Jersey 89; Chicago 98, Houston 88; Milwaukee 98, Atlanta 95; Toronto 106, Minnesota 100; New Orleans 115, Dallas 99; San Antonio 99, Oklahoma City 96; Utah 110, Boston 97; Memphis 102, Sacramento 85; and Phoenix 133, Golden State 131. □

Protest against 'immoral laws'

WILLEMSTAD -- The "Asosashon di Pastornan Kristian" (APK), Curaçao's association of Christian ministers, held a protest gathering Sunday against the introduction of gay marriages, euthanasia and abortion on the BES islands (Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba) that are to become special overseas public bodies of the Netherlands.

The association called on everyone to protest against this "tsunami of immoral laws." In its press release, APK emphasises that it strongly opposes Dutch laws that allow gay marriages, abortion, euthanasia and "soft" drug cafés (the so-called coffee shops).

In the past, the association had frequently protested against the possible introduction of these laws in the Netherlands Antilles. During a previous protest they had collected more than 7,000 signatures and forwarded a letter to the Island and Central Government administrators as well as the Dutch Government. The association is convinced these laws had not been enacted in the Antilles up to now which is partially due to the protests. APK is currently very worried about the amendments unilaterally imposed by the Dutch Second Chamber, in which gay marriages, abortion and euthanasia will be introduced on the BES islands during the next two years.

"We are aware that the Antilles are currently being dismantled. However, at this moment, all of us are still Antilleans, and as Antillean citizens we want to make our viewpoint very clear. The APK is against these laws being introduced on the Antilles."

The association calls on everyone residing in the Antilles and Aruba to speak up and voice their choice to listen to God rather than to the people. For this purpose, the APK held a gathering Sunday evening between seven and nine-thirty in the House of Worship on Erosweg. □

National Flag and Anthem Day

Arubans celebrate Aruba in Washington DC

ORANJESTAD—Proxy Minister of Aruba in Washington DC Jocelyne Croes and her husband Renwick Heronimo recently hosted a party at their DC home to celebrate the island's Flag and Anthem Day. Mrs. Croes invited a number of Arubans who make Washington DC and area their home, as well as the Ambassador of the Dutch Kingdom in the USA Mrs. Renee Jones-Bos and the Netherlands Antilles Proxy Minister Anne Groot Phillips, and other embassy staffers.

Among the some 50 guests were old class mates Michael Halley and Eduard Cheung at the Colegio



Arubano, who have not seen each other in 29 years, despite the fact that they live in close proximity to each other. Eduard Cheung is the NASA scientist in charge of the team responsible for the electrical parts of the Hubble Telescope. Other known Aruban invited to the soiree was ABC 7 anchor Maureen Bunyan, who was able to meet many other people from the island as well who are

now residing in Washington D.C. Such as Kevin de Cuba and Jennifer Molina Vrolijk who are working with the Organization of American States, OAS. Others in photos are Aggy Cheung Kock, wife of Eduard Cheung, who also is a Colegio Arubano alumna, Linda and Angelo Granger, Gerard Bezems and Stella Oduber.

Continued on Next Page

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Arubans celebrate Aruba in Washington DC



Continued from Page B1

For Mrs. Croes it was also an opportunity to introduce Ambassador Jones Bos and Antillean Proxy Minister Groot Phillips to the group of Arubans who all seem to have carved their place in the US society. And for the Aruban guests, it was a chance to

meet the three female diplomatic representatives of the Kingdom of The Netherlands in the US.

Mrs. Croes said she was limited by the lack of address of other Arubans in the USA, and therefore she wants to create a databank with all the emails and addresses of Arubans as well as

friends of Aruba residing in the USA.

Information on addresses and contacts can be sent to WAS-GMA@minbuza.nl, with as subject 'Arubans living in the USA' or 'Friends of Aruba living in the USA'. □



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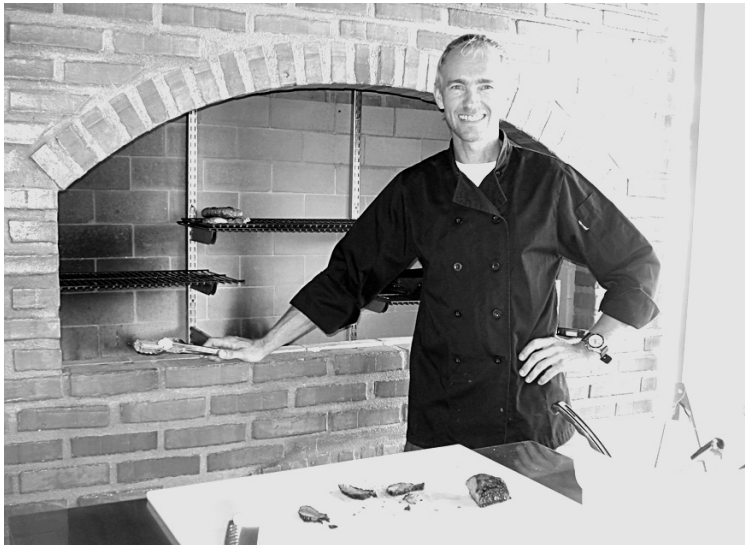
starters such as onion soup, tomato beef soup, chicken salad, grilled veggie salad, freshly made sushi rolls, and assorted desserts such as home-made-from-scratch Belgian Choco-mousse, and more.

You may buy a bottle of wine or Champagne at the food store bodega, to go with your meal.

Chef Sander who built the restaurant himself is proud of his creation, a one of a kind food store, with the freshest ingredients, being cooked a la minute, in a state of the art kitchen.

Check it out anytime, at the Mega Mall, Oranjestad, just behind Delifrance.

The place is designed to cater to visitors who wish to buy quality meals, and enjoy them in their own hotel room, and for busy locals who



ORANJESTAD – A gourmet kitchen where delicious food is cooked to order for fresh take out, just opened at the Mega Mall under the simple name, The Kitchen Aruba.

Chef Sander who made the wood fired grill at Yemanja restaurant famous, spread his wings and opened his own kitchen where he serves just-made dishes, cooked while patrons are watching. The daily menu changes to feature his specialties including Mixed Grill, Tenderloin Stroganoff, Shrimp Thermidor, Chicken Breast glazed with honey-mustard, Groper Gratin in white wine, Teriyaki Chicken, Chicken Fettuccini, and interesting



want to upgrade their daily meal experience with some of chef Sander delectable combinations to go. □



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EQ3 Furniture + Accents introduces fresh look



SALINJA CERCA -- EQ3 Furniture + Accents has just received a shipment of new merchandise including area rugs, inspired by nature, graced with geomantic interpretation of leafs and flowers, in both bold and subdued colors. "Throwing an area rug under a dining room table," says manager Lynn Maduro, "provides an instant facelift, as the color splash and the fresh style dresses up and lights up, the entire room, for a modest amount of money."

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buffet' before the prizes for the winners are handed out. The first prize is a round trip to Livermore Valley, where the superb Wente golf course is waiting for action. If you have not registered for the Papiamento Restaurant/Wente Vineyards Golf Tournament as yet, do so immediately before it is too late at the Tierra del Sol golf club or via Arion Wine Company (594-3323 - Martrude Rutgers), local representative of Wente Wines or at wentegolf2010@gmail.com



TIERRA DEL SOL - Dust off your clubs and do not hesitate to register for the one-day, invitational Papiamento Restaurant/Wente Vineyards Golf Tournament, which is held on April 10. There are still a few spots open, so sign up quickly if you have not done so yet. Always a fun event, the tournament always supports a worthy cause. This year, proceeds are going to the local foundation for Autism, the Fundacion Autismo Aruba (FAA). This foundation helps parents with autistic children cope and deal with this disorder, which comes in many forms. Parents receive information, get guidelines and assistance where and when needed from this foundation. Autism in children is often not recognized as such and when recognized, not guided as it should be. There is still a world of knowledge to be imparted in this area. As is customary, the golf tournament starts off with a cocktail reception in the stunning private garden of Papiamento Restaurant on April 9, where excellent Wente Vineyards wines will flow freely. Fifth-generation Eric Wente and his wife Arel will be present at the reception. Eric loves this tournament and he is greatly looking forward to play the required 18 holes. Participants are treated to a fantastic soup





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*** **HUMAN HINTS** ***

How

I just got off the phone with my mom, who just found out that one of her clients is a millionaire. I told her that she could be one too. Her instant reaction was to

say, "Oh, how would that ever happen?" Since she couldn't imagine HOW it would happen, she instantly defeated her Self.

My dear, courageous mother is not alone in her thought pattern. I'm sure we have all defeated ourselves at one time or another, because we couldn't imagine HOW a situation could ever come about.

I told my mom that her own thoughts about herself define her life, and her imagination about the future defines where she is going. If she thinks and feels herself as a millionaire, if she focuses her mind strong enough and long enough, with focus and time, her imagination will manifest in the three dimensional world.

She listened intently while I explained that it's not up to her to question HOW things will come about. How things happen is the mystery of Unfolding Life.

It is up to us to determine the main direction of where we're going. The unique experiences, the interesting sudden impulse actions throughout the course of the day are what maintain the mystery and uncertainty of life.

Imagine how boring it would be, to know exactly how you will achieve your desires and goals, every step of the way. I'd rather maintain the mystery of how events will unfold.

Until Tomorrow...

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~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years

experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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On the eve of the restaurant's 10th anniversary

Amazonia Churrascaria introduces a new dining option

Palm Beach – The crew at Amazonia Churrascaria is gearing up for the restaurant's 10th anniversary. Almost one decade ago, the authentic Brazilian concept of Rodizio Steakhouse offering continuous dining caught literal fire as a troop of waiters armed with mega skewers started roaming the colorful and friendly new indoor & outdoor dining room of Amazonia Churrascaria, introducing a fresh and novel style of dining to enthusiastic locals and visitors.

Having enjoyed instant success, Amazonia Churrascaria became a household name, a favorite place for family gatherings, celebrations or just great food. "Now, after ten years," says Hubert Solagnier, restaurant manager, "it is time for a new product, an a la carte option, designed to satisfy small eaters, and patrons with distinct menu favorites."

Diners may now opt for the traditional, continuous parade of gauchos, slicing more than 14 cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, or a new a la carte dinner option, where their favorite skewer – from Grilled Pineapple, to Parmesan Pork, Filet Mignon Wrapped in Bacon, Lamb Chop, or the Mixed Amazonia Skewer with

tenderloin and vegetables, and the Passion Skewer with six jumbo shrimp -- is delivered to the table, seasoned to perfection and slow roasted over open flame, in the restaurant's signature style.

Both dining styles are accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal salad bar where patrons can keep sampling until they beg for mercy, and a delicious array of tasty sides.

With two choices, an all-inclusive feast and an a la

carte delight, diners can now better tailor the Amazonia Churrascaria culinary adventure, to their liking, combined with the restaurant's extensive award-winning Wine Spectator wine list, well stocked bar and terrific selection of Cuban cigars.



"Bring this ad with you and receive 15% DISCOUNT on traditional dinner; not applicable for a la carte dining. Beverages and dessert not included."



Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant

Meet Chef Ludwisch Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwisch Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwisch began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwisch has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwisch has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwisch also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwisch is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwisch, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwisch thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at www.pampamaruba.com. □

Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday. On Thursday enjoy the amazing sounds Kavey Yarzagaray.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with these fantastic live shows! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin

with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

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 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic!' - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

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 Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
 ShowTime: 9:00 pm, nightly, (7 days a week) theater opens at 8:30pm
 Tickets: at the door, MagicLive box office (hotel lobby), or Westin-aruba concierges desk
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Carty lauds move to collect unpaid taxes

~ Says tackle businesses 'under the radar' first ~



PHILIPSBURG--Chamber of Commerce President Glen Carty lauds government's move to collect unpaid taxes as part of measures to balance its 2010 budget, but he says more emphasis should be placed on collecting from businesses that "fall under the radar" who don't pay taxes at all. "The Chamber represents all businesses who fully comply with all laws, rules and regulation. As such, the Chamber has always stated that businesses should pay taxes," Carty said in an invited

comment Monday. "But we have also said that it should be a level playing field and companies that are not paying at all should live up to their obligations and make their tax payments."

"Before emphasis is put on those businesses that are already paying taxes, stronger emphasis should be placed on businesses and individuals who are not on the radar and who are not paying taxes at all.

"Those who are paying taxes or those being creative with

their book keeping not to pay as much should also be pursued, but they should not be the first ones to suffer," Carty contended.

"We should put emphasis on businesses and offshore companies doing business on the island that have never paid taxes and who have been doing all their financial transactions abroad. As it is now, those that are paying tax are carrying the [burden] of those who don't and this makes the playing field unlevelled and cannot continue any longer."

Of the estimated 18,000 businesses on the Chamber's register, some 7,500 are active and about 10,500 inactive or unknown. The Chamber is currently conducting an ongoing clean-up of its registry to identify inactive/unknown businesses.

Carty said it's unfair for those who are paying taxes, even if it's not the correct amount, to be forced to pay more, via tax audits, when there are businesses not paying at all.

He said creative measures have to be devised to find businesses that are not paying, adding that the Chamber is willing to cooperate to help find these businesses.

Carty has already met with the assistants of Personnel Affairs Commissioner Xavier Blackman and a plan is to be drafted on how the Chamber can share its information with them.

Carty had said last year that the estimated 4,000 active businesses on its register have no CRIB numbers at the Inspectorate of Taxes, and are therefore possibly not paying taxes. At that time he had called on businesses without CRIB numbers to obtain one and start living up to their obligation to pay taxes. Calling the information "shocking," Carty said the Chamber made the discovery about how many businesses actually have CRIB numbers from the tax office. Government's move to collect millions of guilders in taxes includes more than 14 million

guilders in taxes projected to be collected this year, four million guilders from 2008 and the collection of monies from wage tax audits done over the years 2005-2008 on businesses that might have complied with their wage tax obligation, but had not paid the correct amount to government. It also applies to, amongst others, businesses that had withheld wage taxes collected from employees but failed to turn these over.

In the meantime, seasoned trade unionist Willy Haize has recently lauded government's move to collect unpaid taxes from businesses, saying this should have been done a long time ago. The Vice President of the United Federation of the Windward Antilles UFA Willy Haize, in an earlier interview said it was imperative that government seek to collect what was owed by businesses to help finance the many projects the Island Territory needed to help the situation with the "small man." □

DP presents proposal to purchase Mary's Fancy



PHILIPSBURG - - The purchase of the historical Mary's Fancy Estate in Cule de Sac was temporarily cut from the 2010 budget because enough funds were not available, but opposition Democratic Party (DP) presented an alternative that

would allow the land purchase by taking some funds from other pending projects.

DP Island Councilman Roy Marlin outlined the proposal, seconded by party member Maria Buncamper-Molanus, in Monday's budget debate after Finance Commissioner

Xavier Blackman announced that the purchase would be put aside for now.

DP suggested that NAf. 200,000 guilders each be diverted from the more than NAf. 11 million put aside for the new Government Building, from the NAf. 10 million of

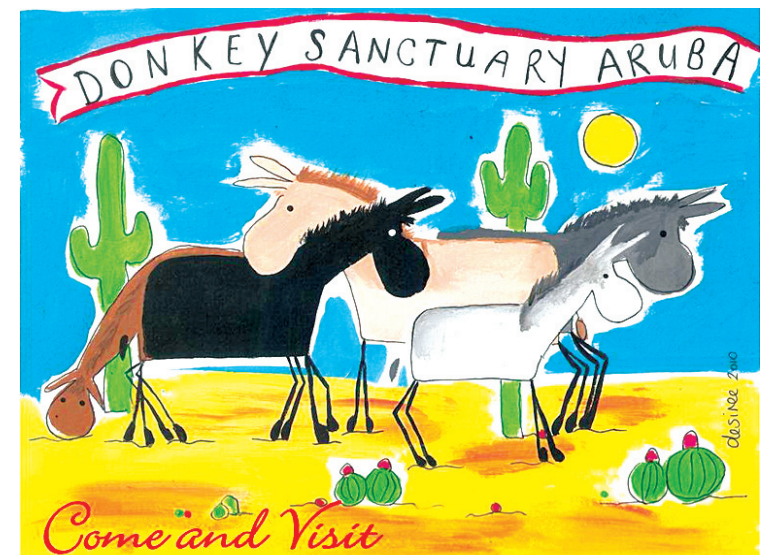
the Social Economic Initiative (SEI), from the NAf. 2.3 million for the school in Belvedere and the NAf. 3.985 million of infrastructure, to come up with a down payment on the estate.

The diversion of funds from these capital projects totals NAf. 800,000.

Marlin said the estate's owner was eager to sell the property to government and the process should not be delayed any longer. He said the property

could be used as a hospitality training school if the cottages on the estates were restored as a small country inn/hotel. This can be operated by Sundial School or the planned higher vocational education school slated for Cay Hill.

The DP proposal will be voted on by the Island Council, along with seven other amendments to the draft budget presented by Blackman, when the budget debate resumes Thursday morning. □



Almonds are good for the heart



By Christie Nash

Almonds, almonds, good for your heart, the more you eat the more you ... lower your LDL cholesterol, improve your complexion and digestion, and reduce your risk of cancer.

If you are looking for a simple and healthy snack while you're on the run, then go on and grab a handful of almonds. Once considered a food that is high in fat, research shows that this fat is monounsaturated, which actually helps reduce the risk of heart disease.

Almonds are also high in protein, and jam-packed full of fibre, calcium, magnesium, potassium, vitamin E, and other antioxidants. And as a bonus, supplementing your diet with whole foods, such as almonds, is a delicious way to lighten your eco-footprint

with less processing and packaging.

Commonly referred to as a nut, almonds are actually the seed of a fruit native to the Middle East. Almonds can be found year-round in grocery stores and markets worldwide as they are now cultivated along the shores of Europe, Africa, and most commonly in California.

Popular almond forms and snacks

The popularity of almonds is not limited to their raw form. Known for their sweetness, almonds have been used for centuries in delectable desserts and baked goods. As they are low in carbohydrates, almonds can be made into flour, which is an excellent baking alternative, especially

if you are sensitive to wheat or gluten-intolerant.

Similar to soymilk, almond milk is becoming increasingly popular, especially for folks who are lactose-free or vegan. Finally, an excellent alternative to peanut butter is almond butter, which is found to be less salty and, better yet, it can be eaten in places that are otherwise "peanut-free."

So, if you're looking for a snack that's nutritious and delicious, give almonds a chance. Here are some quick and easy almond snack ideas: Spread celery sticks or apples with almond butter.

Mix up raw almonds with pumpkin seeds, dried fruit, and other nuts.

Throw chopped almonds into a bowl of cereal or in a cup of yogurt.

If you are looking for some almonds with a kick, try these tamari almonds...

Tamari almond recipe

Ingredients:
 2 cups whole almonds
 ¼ cup tamari, soya sauce, or Bragg liquid soy seasoning (for a gluten-free alternative)
 A squeeze of lemon juice
 A pinch of cayenne pepper

To prepare:
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread almonds on baking sheet and



toast almonds in oven for 5 minutes.

Remove the toasted almonds from oven and toss them with tamari, lemon, and cayenne pepper, and then bake for another 5-10 minutes. Turn

off oven and let the almonds sit for another 10-15 minutes or until the almonds are dry.

Enjoy! Serve to guests, give as a gift, or keep a secret stash at the office for those mid-afternoon snacks. □



HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Everyone today seems to be concerned about energy. Our automobiles will not travel far without it. For our primary transportation to work, we know that raw petroleum must be refined to make gasoline or diesel fuel. This produces a form of energy which moves our vehicles. In our bodies, glucose, amino acids, and fats from our food are the raw materials that must be processed by our cells into fuel. Your body's primary manufactured fuel is Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP), which provides the energy for our body's movement and vital functions.

Even with a good diet, your body may need additional nutritional supplementation of vitamin C, magnesium, zinc, lecithin or choline and Ribose to produce ATP or energy. Ribose is a simple sugar that is the backbone of ribo-nucleic acid (RNA) and deoxyribo-nucleic acid (DNA), the materials our body uses to pass on our genetic code from one generation to the next. DNA and RNA are also necessary daily to regenerate and repair our body's cells. A healthy body can manufacture its own ribose from dietary sugars; however this requires a lot of energy and is a slow process. Diabetics, individuals with chronic degenerative diseases

Got Energy?

By: Dr Carlos Viana

and people who lead extremely active or stressful lives are not naturally producing sufficient quantities of ribose to fully aid the body in these vital processes.

ATP moves nutrients into and waste out of the cells and gives our muscles strength or energy to move and also to relax. ATP also detoxifies your body and produces signals that stimulate hormones. Without fuel your car does not move. Similarly, without an abundant supply of ATP your body becomes stiff, and joints become sore as in arthritis.

Lupus, a disease which includes muscle loss or wasting, Chronic Fatigue Syndromes, cataracts, and autoimmune disorders like fibromyalgia are all symptoms of a deficiency of ATP due to a chronic lack of ribose. In our clinic I have seen an improvement in muscle soreness, and cramping from people with these and other conditions as well as from intensive athletic workouts by adjusting their diets and adding quality supplements, especially Ribose. In older individuals we see an improvement in muscle health and in all groups we

see a reduction of debilitating fatigue.

As a board certified clinical nutritionist, I have also prescribed Ribose to heart deficiency patients that could not climb more than a couple of steps. The heart, as a muscle responds positively to Ribose supplementation that increases ATP in muscles. ATP contributes to a measurable increase in cardiovascular strength. After a week on ribose supplementation, patients have reported being able to comfortably climb a flight of stairs again.

A good diet for one's metabolic type and supplementation with D-Ribose has been positively shown to improved health and fitness. Not only people with cardiovascular problems, but athletes who deplete their energy reserves can benefit from Ribose supplementation to reduce training cramping and soreness. Reports have shown Ribose can even lower blood sugar levels and is also known to alleviate altitude sickness and Pre Menstrual cramping.

Muscle stiffness or pain results from not only physical exertion but is generally believed to be a

symptom of aging. Instead of pain medication I first do an analysis with blood or other test to check the health of the person and then make sure they are drinking sufficient amounts of water. We then recommend acupuncture treatments to relive stress and relax muscles naturally. We also use selenium and Vitamin E to help to maintain good health and, protect the integrity of muscle cells. Antioxidants, work to scavenge free radicals that damage muscle cells under stress.

Get the Point! Stiffness, fatigue or exhaustion can be an obstruction to a happy and healthy life. D-Ribose which has been shown to help your body make the energy it needs for improved health and fitness. Looking to nature and technology for new and better ways to fuel our vehicles, homes and economy is important for our health and our planet. Finding new and improved ways to improve the quality of your body's energy source is and important place to start. Instead of soft drinks or endless cups of coffee, to keep you going, a nutritional evaluation can help you learn how to eliminate waste and make more efficient fuel for your body. Come in for an energy assessment.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor



(O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio program, writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

HEALTH FOR TODAY'S WORLD: 101 Great Ways to Improve YOUR HEALTH, 101 Expert tips to Great Health, Including a chapter by Carlos M. Viana, Aruba's Barefoot Doctor. Available @ Viana Center, Hotel Gift Shops & All Bookstores. □

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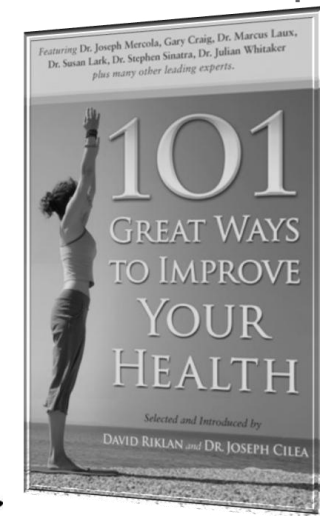
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En México

Estados Unidos revisan combate antidroga por violencia



Foto de archivo de la secretaria de Seguridad Nacional de Estados Unidos, Janet Napolitano, a su llegada a Estados Unidos, feb 17 2010. México y Estados Unidos revisaban el martes su estrategia común contra el narcotráfico en medio de una descontrolada violencia en la frontera que recientemente cobró la vida de civiles, entre ellos dos estadounidenses. REUTERS/Henry Romero

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - México y Estados Unidos revisaban el martes su estrategia común contra el narcotráfico en medio de una descontrolada violencia en la frontera que recientemente cobró la vida de civiles, entre ellos dos estadounidenses. Los gabinetes de seguridad de ambos países, encabezados por la secretaria de Estado de Estados Unidos, Hillary Clinton, y la canciller mexicana, Patricia Espinosa, sostenían un encuentro privado en la Ciudad de México. Más tarde, Clinton se reunirá con el presidente mexicano, Felipe Calderón. El encuentro ocurre luego de que supuestos sicarios asesinaron hace 10 días a una empleada estadounidense del consulado de Estados Unidos en la fronteriza Ciudad Juárez, y a su esposo -también ciudadano de ese país-, así

como a un mexicano casado con otra empleada de la misión diplomática. “Ustedes rara vez ven este tipo de reuniones con esta clase de selección de funcionarios de ambos lados. Pienso que eso indica que este es el acuerdo real”, dijo a periodistas la secretaria de Seguridad Nacional de Estados Unidos, Janet Napolitano, que también participa de la reunión. Napolitano, el secretario de Defensa, Robert Gates y otros altos funcionarios forman parte de la delegación estadounidense. Del lado mexicano participan los secretarios de Seguridad Pública, Defensa, Marina y de Gobernación, además del fiscal general, entre otros. El Gobierno de Calderón, que mantiene un combate frontal con efectivos del Ejército sobre todo en la frontera con Estados Unidos, no ha logrado

controlar los crímenes en la ciudad, a pesar de la presencia de casi 10,000 soldados y policías federales desde hace un año.

Se espera que los funcionarios determinen qué medidas adicionales tomar para reducir la violencia y cómo hacer más eficientes los recursos de la Iniciativa Mérida, un plan diseñado en el 2007 para entregar a México 1,400 millones de dólares en equipo para ayudar a combatir al narcotráfico.

SUMA DE MUERTES

Las muertes relacionadas con el narcotráfico suman unas 19,000 en todo México desde que Calderón asumió en el 2006. “Es realista esperar que la estrategia del combate al crimen organizado cambie a partir del asesinato de ciudadanos estadounidenses”,

dijo Rodrigo Salazar, analista de la Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (Flacso) en México.

“Estados Unidos sin duda va a presionar por resultados”, agregó. Salazar dijo que a su vez México exigirá más resultados en la reducción del consumo de droga en Estados Unidos y el contrabando de armas estadounidenses que van a parar a los violentos cárteles mexicanos de la droga. Ambos países comparten una extensa frontera de unos 3,200 kilómetros.

El lunes, el presidente Barack Obama llamó a Calderón para enfatizar el compromiso estadounidense de brindarle ayuda en la lucha contra los cárteles de la droga.

“Lo que ha ocurrido en Ciudad Juárez en los últimos días tendrá un impacto en la deliberación (...) porque

creo que debe forzar a los dos Gobiernos a focalizar esfuerzos”, dijo el embajador de México en Washington, Arturo Sarukhán.

La violencia recrudesció en Ciudad Juárez en los últimos meses en medio de la pelea entre el local cártel de Juárez y el de Sinaloa, liderado por Joaquín “el Chapo” Guzmán, por la ruta del tráfico a través de esa ciudad industrial, fronteriza con El Paso, en Texas.

La violencia se ha incrementado además en Monterrey, la capital del norteño estado de Nuevo León, también fronterizo con Estados Unidos, donde hace unos días dos estudiantes mexicanos de una universidad murieron al parecer en medio de un fuego cruzado entre supuestos sicarios y militares □

Policía política detiene a opositor venezolano

CARACAS (AP) - La policía política detuvo el lunes al ex gobernador Oswaldo Alvarez Paz que fue acusado de “conspiración” e “instigación para delinquir” por cuestionar las acciones del gobierno contra el narcotráfico.

Una comisión del Servicio Bolivariano de Inteligencia Nacional (Sebin) detuvo al ex gobernador del estado occidental del Zulia y ex candidato presidencial en su vivienda en el este de la capital y lo trasladó a la sede del cuerpo policial, informó Omar Estacio, abogado del político.

El opositor fue detenido por solicitud de un tribunal capitalino, según indicó el abogado. “Llama a sospecha y a consternación el empleo de los tribunales como herramienta para constreñir a los opositores. Es demasiado grave”, dijo Estacio al canal de noticias Globovisión al expresar su rechazo a la aprehensión del político.

El abogado afirmó que el proceso emprendido contra el ex gobernador “es netamente político”, y sostuvo que los delitos imputados no tendrían fundamento debido a que “no informó falsamente”, y “no se causó ninguna consternación”.

Alvarez Paz confió en que su caso será aclarado. “Más tarde o más temprano la justicia brillará”, dijo a Globovisión minutos antes de ser trasladado a la sede del Sebin. “Estoy asumiendo integralmente la responsabilidad

por las cosas que he dicho y por las cosas que hago”, agregó el opositor.

Alvarez Paz fue acusado el 19 de marzo por la Fiscalía General de “conspiración”, “instigación pública a delinquir”, y “difusión de información falsa” por las afirmaciones que hizo el 8 de marzo en el programa “Aló Ciudadano” de Globovisión.

Alvarez Paz es investigado por declarar el 8 de marzo en el espacio “Aló Ciudadano” de Globovisión que “Venezuela se ha convertido en centro de operaciones que facilita los negocios del narcotráfico”.

De ser declarado culpable por alguno de los tres delitos, el ex candidato presidencial por el partido socialcristiano Copei podría ser condenado a entre 2 y 16 años de cárcel, informó la fiscalía.

Alvarez Paz rechazó los delitos que le imputó el Ministerio Público y dijo a la prensa que “yo no introduje informaciones nuevas, no hice acusaciones a lo loco”.

“Ratifico todo su contenido y extensión, con puntos y comas, todo lo que yo dije en ese programa”, agregó.

El Ministerio Público abrió la investigación contra el opositor el 9 de marzo a solicitud de los diputados oficialistas Manuel Villalba y Pedro Lander, que lo señalaron de instigar “al odio en contra de las instituciones y los habitantes del país”. □

Proceso para liberar rehenes en poder las FARC se destraba en Colombia

BOGOTA (Reuters) - La mayor guerrilla de Colombia aceptó un protocolo con las garantías de seguridad que regirán por parte del Gobierno para la anunciada liberación de dos militares secuestrados, proceso que comenzaría el sábado, dijo el martes una senadora que lidera la misión humanitaria. Pese a que el Gobierno y el Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja firmaron hace más de una semana el protocolo de seguridad, la demora en la respuesta de las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) mantenía paralizado el proceso. "Estoy muy feliz, ya estamos en la recta final para las liberaciones. Aceptado protocolo, el sábado salimos por ellos desde



Imagen de archivo de la senadora colombiana del Partido Liberal Piedad Córdoba, en una conferencia de prensa junto a los familiares del soldado y el policía secuestrados, en Bogotá. REUTERS/Fredy Builes/archivo

Villavicencio", anunció la senadora del Partido Liberal Piedad Córdoba a través de la

red social twitter. La dirigente política, quien está al frente de la misión humanitaria que recibirá al suboficial Pablo Emilio Moncayo, al soldado Josué Daniel Calvo y los restos del oficial de la policía Julián Ernesto Guevara, muerto en cautiverio, viajará a Brasil, país que prestará los helicópteros y las tripulaciones para recibir a los rehenes en medio de la selva. "Nunca pensé que fracasaría. Estábamos en una razonable espera de aceptación de protocolos de seguridad por las FARC", agregó Córdoba. El Gobierno de Colombia se comprometió a suspender las operaciones militares en la zona en donde se producirá la entrega, incluyendo los sobrevuelos de aeronaves de las Fuerzas Armadas. □



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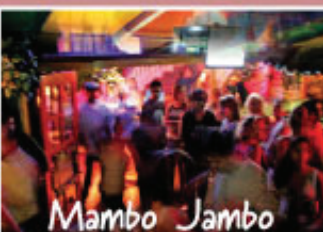
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